

- Claim 19. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 16, wherein the judging section is operable to determine a minimum pixel value contained in the pixel as underflowing from the predetermined gradation range; and wherein the color balance adjustment section is operable to cause the minimum pixel value to agree with the minimum value of the predetermined gradation range.
- Claim 20. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 16, wherein the color balance adjustment section is operable to maintain the ratio and/or the average value of the pixel value of the pixel for adjustment.

**REMARKS**

Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 and added new claims 11-20.

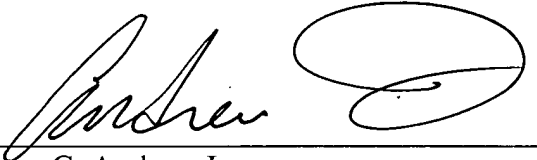
Applicants request that the foregoing amendment be entered prior to examination.

An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

No fee is believed to be due, however, should a fee become due the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any fee associated with this filing from Deposit Account No. 500624.

Respectfully submitted,

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